

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following:

[0010] A drive axle assembly includes a carrier and a differential case rotatably disposed in the carrier. A pair of axle shafts, disposed within the differential case, are rotatable relative to each other and about an axis. A drive hub is disposed about the axle shaft. A plurality of friction discs are disposed within the differential case and are alternatively connected to the differential case and the drive hub. The friction discs are adjacent one another in an alternating relationship to define a running clearance therebetween. A plate defines a plurality of levers with each lever [extends] extending radially relative to the axis between a radially inward end to a radially outward end to engage the friction discs and integrally interconnected by links adjacent radially outward ends. An actuator assembly is disposed about one of the axle shafts for engaging the levers and to force the levers into engagement with the friction discs for forcing the friction discs into engagement with one another for transmitting torque between one of the axle shafts and the differential case.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following:

[0011] ~~Each lever is characterized by the~~ The radially inward end ~~engaging engages~~ the actuator assembly and the radially outward end ~~engaging engages~~ the differential case having a disc engaging portion between the radial inward and outward ends for engaging the friction discs between the radially inward and outward ends of each lever. The disc engaging portion amplifies a thrust force applied by the actuator assembly by pivoting about the engagement of the radially outward end with the differential case in response to axial movement of the radially inward end by the actuator assembly.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following:

[0031]Turning to Figures 4 through 9, a plurality of levers 104 extend radially relative to the axis A between a radially inward end 114 to a radially outward end 116 and engage the friction discs of the first 74 and second 76 sets. Specifically, the radially inward end 114, which engages the sleeve 100, and the radially outward end 116, which engages the differential case 22, further includes a disc engaging portion 118 therebetween for engaging the friction discs of the first 74 and second 76. This mechanical engagement operates as a second-class lever to amplify the thrust force applied by the sleeve 100. In particular, the lever 104 pivots about an engagement of the radially outward end 116 with the differential case 22 in response to axial movement of the radially inward end 114 by the actuator assembly. The radially outward end 116 operates as a fulcrum of the second-class lever. Each of the levers 104 includes an elongated portion 120 extending from the radially inward end 114 to the disc engaging portion 118. A length of the elongated portion 120 defines a degree of amplification of the thrust force. It is preferred that the disc engaging portion 118, or fulcrum, remain closer to the radially outward end 116 as opposed to the radially inward end 114. The levers 104 are interconnected one with another by a link 105 to form an integral or homogeneous plate 102 having a periphery in the shape of an octagon.